

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission (EMPC)

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:30 PM

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:31 PM. The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, John DeMarco, Richard Ruth, Cathy Tomlinson, Kevin Cook (via Zoom), Steve Hirsch, Julie Hearn-Nicely (via Zoom) and Jamie Goncharoff. Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath (Secretary) and Chris Dorman (resident - via Zoom).

II County Report

No report.

III EMPC Vision and Reorganization

- Byron presented a draft EMPC Vision document for the commission. The ensuing discussion was brief, and all members were in general agreement.
- Byron asked Chris Dorman, resident of Upper Uwchlan Township, what he wanted to learn from the meeting, or was there a particular topic that he wanted to discuss. Chris was interested in the Act 537 (Municipal Authority) and how it impacts his neighborhood - Bordeaux Estates. Byron mentioned that we would be discussing the Bordeaux Estates Alternate Egress Assessment later in the presentation. Chris was referred to the Municipal Authority for his water/wastewater related questions.
- The Annual Reorganization of the EMPC was addressed. Cathy Tomlinson, Jamie Goncharoff and Steve Hirsch expressed renewed interest in volunteering for the EMPC, and they all were appointed for another three-year term by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- Byron made a motion to reappoint Kathi McGrath as the recording Secretary. Jamie Goncharoff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- The EMPC's charter and the (separate and extensive) role and responsibilities of the EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator - appointed by the BOS, ChesCo DES, the state, and the Governor) were presented. Byron noted that the EMPC is a nine-person commission with members that are interested in contributing to the welfare of the Township and a willingness to help fulfill both EMPC and EMC responsibilities. Support from all members of the commission is very important.
- He noted that the EMPC has three standing committees (Pipelines, Community Awareness & Preparedness, and Emergency Services) and that ad hoc committees will be used for miscellaneous issues as they arise. No quorum, public notice or meeting minutes are required for impromptu committee meetings. Ad hoc committees would be updating the NARM, flooding, input to the Township's 2021 Comprehensive Plan update, and topics such as participation at the Block Party, Red

Cross support, west Milford Road alternate egress, etc. Committee business could be conducted by email, over the phone, in person over lunch, or whatever method is most effective to the committee. Committee chairs keep the EMC informed and provide progress reports and recommendations to the full EMPC.

- Steve Hirsch noted that it's a good idea to add a deadline to action items within the individual committees.
- Jamie noted his agreement with the EMPC's stretch goals and organizational structure. He added that prioritization is key to accomplishing the most important goals with the limited resources available.
- Reorganization. Byron discussed the role of the EMPC Vice Chair, commented that the position is elected annually, and noted that Jamie Goncharoff currently fills that position. A request for nominations was made and Richard Ruth nominated Jamie for re-election. Chief DeMarco seconded the nomination. Jamie was unanimously elected with no abstentions.

IV Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Chief DeMarco made a motion for the Draft Meeting Minutes to be approved. Richard Ruth seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved with no abstentions.

V. Chairperson/EMC Report

Nothing further to report.

VI. Old Business

Richard Ruth, Byron Nickerson and Kevin Cook attended the November 2021 Limerick Drill debriefing at Ludwigs Corner Fire Station. Feedback for all municipalities was overwhelmingly positive. No feedback was provided for Upper Uwchlan.

During the lessons learned discussion following the drill, the FEMA and PEMA observers praised the EMPC on their preparation, facility organization, teamwork and problem solving techniques. No deficiencies were noted.

Cathy Tomlinson mentioned that she would like to be more prepared by having current special needs listing available during the next exercise. Chief DeMarco offered to assist.

VII. New Business

Byron presented the following new business.

- Uwchlan Ambulance Corps (UAC) is considering the establishment of a satellite facility in Upper Uwchlan Township. Kevin Cook and the Emergency Services Committee will interface with the UAC on this effort.
- Refining his Vision Plan. Members were encouraged to discuss proposed input with Byron.

- Cathy Tomlinson mentioned that the Reed Road bridge on the UUT side gets flooded during significant storm events. Carroll Engineering is doing the mitigation to the bridge, but not the flooded roadway on the Upper Uwchlan side. Byron will meet on site with Cathy to review the bridges prior to the upcoming meeting with the County DPW. Jamie noted that there are grants that UUT can apply for to help off-set costs for addressing vehicular safety associated with flooding events.

VIII. Round Table

- Kathi announced the popular Annual Block Party will be held this year. It was not held the last two years due to Covid restrictions. The date will be Saturday, June 18, 2022. It will be at the same location. Fireworks will conclude the event that is scheduled from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
- Byron said that EMPC meetings will nominally last one hour and he will do his best to adhere to that timeline unless prior notice is provided.

Chief DeMarco made a motion to end the meeting and Richard Ruth seconded the motion.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:30 PM.
(Location to be determined)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary